



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

SEEK SERVE SHARE

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Celebrant
Deacon
Family Minister
Verger
Seminarians
Music

The Rev. Alyssa Stebbing
The Rev. Vicki Knipp
Lyssa Williford, Director
Scott Cummings
Christina Allen and Casey Clough
Ann Vail, Director of Music
Michael Davis, Piano
John Cotten, Guitar
St. Christopher's Choir

Visitors

Welcome! We are so blessed you've joined us for worship today. Please connect by text, email, phone. **Childcare** is available for Formation and Worship.

Restrooms

Church: near the Nursery. Parish Hall: to the right as you enter.

Fellowship

Follow the crowd after the service for conversation and treats.

wifi network | St. Christopher

wifi password | StChristophers8724

Prayer Requests Please complete a prayer card and drop it in the offering plate, or contact our office by phone, email, or on our website.



The Connection enewsletter

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact the office or scan the QR code with your phone.

Ways to support the ministry of St. Christopher's

Support the life and ministry of St. Christopher's. Contact the office for more information.

St. Christopher's clergy and staff will never ask for an urgent favor, purchase of gift cards, or other financial items, or your personal info via email or text. Please delete these without responding.



In Person



Automatic Giving



Online Banking



Online



Mobile



Text

Please remember to enter **pledge** on the memo line and choose **Operating Pledge** online.

Large print bulletins are available in the narthex.

Digital bulletins are on the home page stchristophersaustin.org

Worship Schedule (see also Connection)

Acolyte

Lily

Altar Guild

Kathy

Bell Ringer

Gabbi

Epistoler

Lily

Eucharistic Minister

Colleen

Fellowship

Karen, Monica, Linda V

Flowers

Ann

Godly Play

Lyssa

Lector

Elizabeth

Nursery

Athena

Ushers

Estella and Steve

Vestry of the Day

Jean and Steve

Sunday | 9a Nursery | 9a Adult Form. | 10a Children's Form. | 10a Holy Eucharist, Rite II | 11a Fellowship

Monday | 9a Morning Prayer **Wednesday** | noon House of Prayer | 7p Online Compline

Office | Mon-Thu: 9:30am – 2:30pm | 512.288.0128 | office@stchrisatx.org

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

As the Prelude begins we invite you to you to finish conversations and find a place in the nave to prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

(Please kneel as you are able)

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

During the singing of the last verse of the Processional Hymn the children will follow the cross and return following the sermon.

(Please stand as you are able and join in singing.)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 127

1 Earth has many a noble city;
Bethlehem, thou dost all excel:
out of thee the Lord from heaven
came to rule his Israel.

2 Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing
seen in fleshly form on earth.

3 Eastern sages at his cradle
make oblations rich and rare;
see them give, in deep devotion,
gold and frankincense and myrrh.

4 Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
incense doth their God disclose,
gold the King of kings proclaimeth,
myrrh his sepulcher foreshows.

5 Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshiped
at thy glad epiphany,
unto thee, with God the Father
and the Spirit, glory be.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP, p. 299

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

There is one Body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray

COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

BCP, p. 214

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen. . **Amen.**

(Please be seated for the readings)

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 42:1-9

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSE

Psalm 29

The response is from Psalm 29, please read responsively by whole verse.

1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,*
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory that is due the holy name;*
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;*
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;*
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;*
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**6 The LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;*
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe*
and strips the forests bare.**

9 And in the temple of the LORD*
all are crying, "Glory!"

**10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as Sovereign for evermore.**

11 The LORD shall give strength to the chosen people;*
the LORD shall give the people the blessing of peace.

EPISTLE:

Acts 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able and join in singing.)

SEQUENCE HYMN

Lift Every Voice, # 62

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
In him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love
Thru'out the whole wide Earth.

2 In him shall true hearts ev'rywhere
Their high communion find.
His service is the golden cord
Close binding humankind

GOSPEL:

Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ

SEQUENCE HYMN

Lift Every Voice, # 62

3 Join hands, then, children of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be!
Who serves my Father as a child
Is surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
In him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in him,
Thru'out the whole wide Earth.

(Please be seated for the sermon.)

SERMON

The Rev Alyssa Stebbing

(Please stand as you are able)

We light a candle as we renew our baptismal vows, acknowledging the light of Christ in us.

At the appointed time the ushers will light their candles from the Paschal candle. The light will be shared down the aisles. To light your candle tilt it to receive the flame from a lit candle. Once lit, keep your candle upright to avoid dripping wax.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?
I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

At the appropriate time, please gently extinguish your candle by blowing it out. As you leave, return your candle and holder to the baskets provided at the exits.

(Please kneel or continue standing as you are able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon

Heavenly Father, in gratitude for the message of love you sent to us in the word made flesh, Jesus, your Son, we offer you the longings of our hearts as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Leader and People pray responsively

We pray for your church, for all who find you there, for those who love you and for those who long to love you more. Give us a spirit of invitation, and the courage to find new ways to be good news to all your people.

We pray for the whole Anglican Communion.

We pray for our church, for Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Andy, Kai, Jeff, Brian, and Hector our bishops, for Church of the Cross, Lake Travis, Epiphany, Burnet, Good Shepherd, Austin, and for our whole diocese.

We pray for our parish, for Alyssa our priest; Vicki our deacon, Lyssa, our family minister, Casey and Christina, our seminarians, and all our leaders and ministers.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the nation and for all who govern. We pray for our future and the future of all nations and peoples, that we may be united in the desire for peace and life for everyone.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the world and its needs, for the state of our oceans and soil; the survival of your creatures and the safety of all people and that those who are able will work diligently for liberation and sustenance.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the needs of the communities we call home and our neighbors, for those we know and those who are strangers to us. We give you thanks for our adoption, which makes us brothers and sisters in Christ.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are ill or injured, and for those who are depressed and anxious, that they may know the comfort of your healing love and the joy of each new day.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the dying, for those who labor to leave this world, that their departing may be peaceful and fearless. We pray also for those who weep this day and those who mourn the dead.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Silence

The Deacon concludes with Intercessions

Celebrant

Offering you these prayers and praises we acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Uphold us this day and every day and to bless our endeavors as we strive to bring about your kingdom vision for this world. We ask all this in the name of your Son, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen**

Deacon

Let us humbly confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Please continue kneeling or kneel as you are able)

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP, p. 352

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, And by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, Have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. **Amen**

ABSOLUTION

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

(Please stand as you are able)

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

(Please be seated for the announcements)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP, p. 376

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

John Ylvisaker

1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."

2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."

4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

(Please stand or kneel as you are able)

DOXOLOGY

Hymnal 1982, # 380

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP, p. 361

(Please remain standing.)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...

The Celebrant continues with the Proper Preface

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

(Please stand or kneel as you are able and join in singing)

SANCTUS

Hymnal 1982, # S 130

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: ...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People say together.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, ...

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, p. 364

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal 1982, # S164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Please follow the guidance of the ushers to approach the altar to receive communion. Gluten free wafers available. If you would prefer you may receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest. Please ask an usher if you need communion brought to you.

(Please sit or kneel as you prefer after receiving Holy Communion)

Communion Hymn

Hymnal 1982, # 121

1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove and yet
as urgent as a flame.

2 God called you his beloved Son,
called you his servant true,
sent you his kingdom to proclaim,
his holy will to do.

3 Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed his call
freely as Son of Man to serve
and give your life for all.

4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord,
your cross on us be signed,
that, likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find

Communion Praise Song

Daniel Iverson

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

Communion Praise Song

Donald Fishel

Refrain
The light of Christ
has come into the world
The light of Christ
has come into the world

1 All men must be born again
to see the Kingdom of God
The water and the Spirit
bring new life in God's love
Refrain

2 God gave up His only Son
out of love for the world
So that all men who believe
in Him will live forever
Refrain

3 The light of God has come to us
so that we might have salvation
From the darkness of our sins
we walk into glory with Christ Jesus
Refrain

(Please kneel or stand as you are able)

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 365

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

(Please stand or continue standing and join in singing)

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 135

1 As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.

5 In the heavenly country bright,
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down:
there for ever may we sing
alleluias to our King. Amen.

4 Holy Jesus! every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you for joining us in worship today.

*Please know that your participation
with us has been a blessing.*

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Your help is needed in keeping our Prayer List current. Please send any updates for the Prayer List to the office at office@stchristophersaustin.org

Prayers for Healing, Comfort, and Peace: Sally, Mike, Elizabeth, Bob, George, Finn, Hailey, Judy, Ian, Elena, Paula, Bobby, Mary, Caroline, Alison, Ward, Mary, MJ, Erin, Robert, Pam, Joe, Hank, Cheryl, Ray, Michael, Nick, Samuel, Nicholas, Jean, Nate, Rachel, Khloe, Emily, Jorge, Julie, Vanessa, Aly, Shannon, Winn, Diana

Prayers for those in Service to Our Country: Kenyon, Daniel, Cale, Joshua, Joyce

Prayers for Expectant Mothers: Pam

ANNOUNCEMENTS

See the Connection for more information or scan the QR.

Pilgrimage to England Participation Deadline | Jan 15

Please let Rev Alyssa know by Thursday if you are planning to go.

Vestry Installation | Sun, Jan 18

Please join us next Sunday as we give thanks for the ministry of our retiring vestry members and celebrate the installation of the newly elected vestry.

Bishop's Visit | Sun, Feb 1

Bishop Ryan will be visiting with us and celebrating and preaching at the service.

Annual Parish Meeting | Sun, Feb 8

We hope everyone will be with us as we hear about the state of St Christopher's and about plans for 2026

Lent Retreat | Sat, Feb 14

More information to come.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper | Feb 17

It's that time of year again as we prepare for Lent.

Ash Wednesday Services | Feb 18, noon and 7p

We will have two services and hope you can begin this most holy season with us.

Vestry Retreat | Feb 21, 9a-3p

We have a facilitator this year, Fr. Gerry Sevic, who does formation with vestries. We will meet at the church and lunch will be provided, so let Rev Alyssa know of any dietary requirements. Please try to attend as this is an important part of our formation as a vestry.

Diocesan Council | Feb 27 - 28



This is my Son, the Beloved,
with whom I am well
pleased.

